

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /096 W

----- 093002

R 171820 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3469

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, AR, SP

SUBJECT: RUMOR THAT REY WILL BE NEW AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN

1. PROMINENT ARGENTINE BANKER TOLD ME LAST NIGHT AT BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S DINNER HONORING OUTGOING FOREIGN MINISTER MCLOUGHLIN THAT AIR FORCE COMMANDER REY WOULD BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN BY INCOMING CAMPORA GOVERNMENT. HE MADE REMARK IN PRESENCE FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS AND FOREIGN MINISTER. LATTER (WHO IS ALSO AIR FORCE OFFICER) COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD URGE REY NOT TO ACCEPT POST SHOULD IT BE OFFERED, "FOR SAKE OF APPEARANCES."

2. ALTHOUGH FOR SOME MONTHS REY HAS ESPOUSED A COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE VIS- A- VIS GOVERNMENT- ELECT (AS MOST RECENTLY ILLUSTRATED BY HIS STATEMENT MAY 15 ENDORSING CAMPORA'S FIVE- POINT PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION), HE MAY HAVE OTHER MOTIVATIONS THAN THAT SUGGESTED, SUCH AS GETTING MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR AIR FORCE UNDER NEXT GOVERNMENT. FURTHER, HE APPARENTLY WAS ONE OF FIRST MEMBERS OF JUNTA TO COME TO CONCLUSION ON PRAGMATIC GROUNDS THAT THERE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO TURN POWER OVER TO CAMPORA.

NONETHELESS, SHOULD HE ACCEPT POST UNDER NEXT GOVT SUCH AS THAT MENTIONED ABOVE, THERE WILL BE MANY IN ARGENTINA, ESPECIALLY AMONG HIS BROTHER OFFICERS, WHO WILL REGARD HIM AS "BOUGHT OFF"

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BY THE PERONISTS.
LODGE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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